



## 2013 Michigan's AmeriCorps Week Recap

The 2013 Michigan's AmeriCorps Week, which took place March 9–17, was a tremendous success with thousands of individuals participating in events throughout the state. To add to the excitement of the week, Governor Rick Snyder issued an official proclamation declaring it AmeriCorps Week in Michigan.

During the week-long celebration, members took the time to thank their community partners and recruit more Americans into service. Thousands of Michiganders learned about AmeriCorps through presentations, volunteer fairs, service projects, and media coverage during the week. Additionally, the Michigan Community Service Commission hosted the second annual Michigan's AmeriCorps Week Twitter Chat, where participants from across the state discussed the significant impact of AmeriCorps.

Members and alums also celebrated AmeriCorps Week by doing what they do best – service! Projects varied from community beautification to a service rally and everything in between.

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### Michigan's AmeriCorps Week Service Projects

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#### Teach for America Detroit Corporate Panel

Teach for America (TFA) Detroit hosted a panel of four Detroit business and community leaders, who had an opportunity to learn about the work TFA is doing in classrooms and discuss the past, present, and future of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Education. In addition to sharing their experiences and offering advice for connecting students with real world STEM experiences, panelists and Corps members were able to connect one-on-one regarding future opportunities for students including upcoming technology workshops, classroom visits, and community programs and resources.



#### Teach For America Detroit Classroom Visits



Teach for America (TFA) Detroit hosted several prominent city leaders in their classrooms to speak with students. Congressman Peters came and read the *Lorax* by Dr. Suess to Ms. Michelle Shirk's kindergarten class at Amelia Earhart Elementary-Middle School. The students had a great time and the Congressman truly enjoyed his time in the classroom. The students asked him some very thought-provoking questions and they were particularly interested when he mentioned how closely he works with President Obama.

John George, founder of Blight Busters, also joined TFA in Mr. Edward Nelson's 7th grade math class at University YES Academy to teach the students about what his organization does for their community. The class got to see real projects that Mr. George and his team of volunteers are working on in their neighborhood.

## **Together We Prepare AmeriCorps Presentations**

In honor of AmeriCorps Week, members from the Together We Prepare AmeriCorps (TWPA) program presented at several career and educational fairs at Western Michigan University, Holton High School, Muskegon Community College, Jenison Christian Church, Grand Valley State University, Andrews University, and Alma College. All together, these members reached nearly 300 people who are now better educated about AmeriCorps and the TWPA program.



## **MARESA AmeriCorps Week Activities**

MARESA AmeriCorps members put together a play about community service with more than 25 of the elementary students. The final scene incorporated all 11 MARESA AmeriCorps members. In addition, two members were on a popular local morning radio show (Sunny 101.9), to discuss what AmeriCorps is, as well as the program's literacy goals in relation to Reading Month. MARESA also had a news reporter from The Mining Journal visit one of their AmeriCorps sites in Gwinn to do a story with the two AmeriCorps members serving there regarding Reading Month and what AmeriCorps members are trying to accomplish.

## **AmeriCorps Community Resource Navigator Program Activities**

Members from the AmeriCorps Community Resource Navigator Program were invited to speak at a local middle school in Howell. Members spoke about their AmeriCorps experience and how people in local Michigan communities experience poverty, hunger, and homelessness. The students asked many questions about how to apply when they are older and what the experience is like, demonstrating their eagerness to get involved and make a difference in their community.

## **Faith In Youth AmeriCorps Week Presentations**

Nine Faith In Youth AmeriCorps Members made two presentations to a total of 60 Hope College students during AmeriCorps Week. Each presentation included the history of AmeriCorps, the current impact both locally and nationally of AmeriCorps members, and the involvement of Good Samaritan Ministries in connecting AmeriCorps to the city of Holland.

## **Power of We & MMCCC Joint Service Project**

The Power of We Consortium and Mentor Michigan College Coaching Corps (MMCCC) AmeriCorps programs hosted a collaborative event in Lansing on March 14 to celebrate AmeriCorps Week. Approximately 50 national service members joined together for lunch and a kick-off event featuring the City of Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar, and a founder and key leader in national service, Diana Algra. Afterwards, AmeriCorps members engaged in a service project at Fenner Nature Center, clearing brush from local trails and preparing the nature center for spring visitors.



## **Char-EM ISD AmeriCorps Week Activities**

Members serving with the Char-EM ISD AmeriCorps program celebrated AmeriCorps Week in various ways. Many members hosted mini-service projects including creating placements for a local senior home, recycling, and more. Other members promoted AmeriCorps through educational means such as presentations, posters, and displays.

## **Mentor Michigan College Coaching Corps Alma College AmeriCorps Fair**

A Mentor Michigan College Coaching Corps (MMCCC) AmeriCorps member serving at Alma College organized an AmeriCorps Fair during AmeriCorps Week to inform college students and community members about national service opportunities. More than 14 national service programs were in attendance to promote opportunities with their respective programs. The event, which was held on March 12, had more than 30 participants in attendance. Of these participants, 22 completed a survey about their AmeriCorps knowledge and 40 percent of attendees indicated they had no knowledge of national service before attending the event.

## **Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness Hosts Movin' On In Event**

The Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness (MCTEH) AmeriCorps program hosted a housing simulation event on March 22 in Grand Rapids called Movin' On In. This event, engaged 31 participants and featured opening remarks by Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell. Each participant was assigned various roles to simulate the lives of homeless individuals who then had to attain housing in four simulated days (lasting 10 minutes each). Seven simulated administrators undertook the roles of public housing, section 8 housing vouchers, etc. At the end of the event, a debriefing conversation was held to help individuals fully comprehend the activity. At Movin' On In, a personal item collection was also held to obtain donated items for local homeless individuals. More than 25 baskets were filled to be donated to the Salvation Army and Degage Ministries.



## **Saginaw Substance Abuse Prevention Partnership Recruitment Table**

Saginaw Substance Abuse Prevention Partnership (SSAPP) AmeriCorps Program teamed up with Delta College to display information regarding national service and AmeriCorps at a career fair. The goal was to raise awareness of the Delta College student community to the many diverse AmeriCorps opportunities that exist not only in Saginaw, but also throughout Michigan. SSAPP members spoke with 47 students about AmeriCorps, and collected the students' contact information to keep students informed about opportunities to serve.

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### **About the MCSC**

*The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) builds a culture of service by providing vision and resources to strengthen communities through volunteerism. In 2012-2013, the MCSC is granting more than \$7.5 million in federal funds to local communities for volunteer programs and activities. The MCSC is funding 23 AmeriCorps programs and six Volunteer Michigan grantees. The Governor's Service Awards and Mentor Michigan are also premier programs of the MCSC.*